

A Four-pages Saga. An Attempt at Graphical Analysis of the Transformation of les Halles in the Late 20th Century, with Some Implications.

Original

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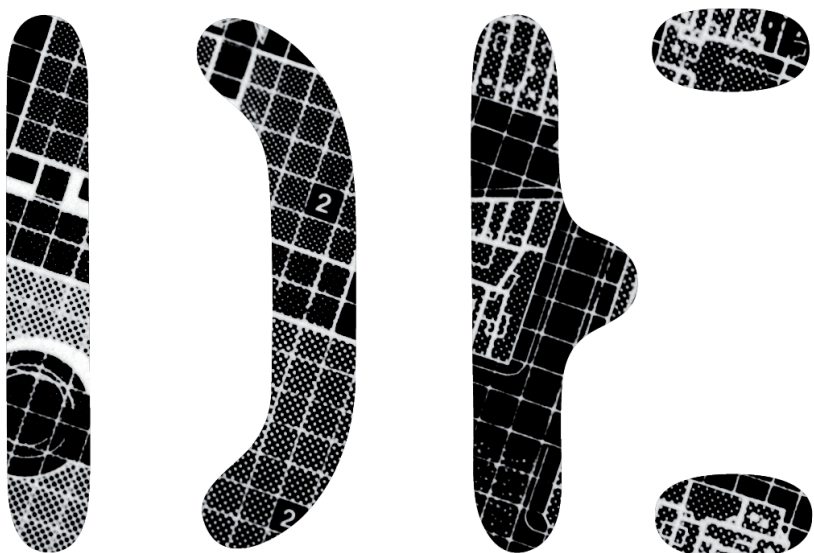
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The Editorial Board , <i>Ardeth's Call</i>	5
Carlo Magnani , <i>Architectural Design Theory</i>	19
Maurizio Ferraris , <i>Il progetto dettato</i>	31
Franco Farinelli , <i>Il disegno, il General Intellect e la città: per una rilettura del Vasari</i>	49
Marc Schoonderbeek , <i>A Theory of "Design by Research"; Mapping Experimentation in Architecture and Architectural Design</i>	63
Daniele Campobenedetto , <i>A Four Page Saga. An Attempt at Graphical Analysis of the Transformation of les Halles in the Late 20th Century, with Some Implications</i>	81
Albena Yaneva , <i>Architectural Theory at Two Speeds</i>	89
Bruno Latour, Albena Yaneva , «Give Me a Gun and I Will Make All Buildings Move»: An ANT's View of Architecture	103
Graham Harman , <i>Buildings are Not Processes: A Disagreement with Latour and Yaneva</i>	113
Pepe Barbieri , <i>Contesti in volo</i>	125
Hélène Frichot , <i>A Creative Ecology of Practice for Thinking Architecture</i>	139
Stephan Trüby , <i>Tausendundeine Theorie</i>	151
Ilaria Valente, Florencia Andreola , <i>Necessità della teoria: la ricerca italiana recente tra frammentarietà, ricorsi e ricostruzione critica</i>	163
Nicola Russi , <i>Typological Schemes of the Relationship between Architecture and Its Context. Phenomenology of the Background</i>	181
Gevork Hartoonian , <i>The End of Design Theory: A Project</i>	189
Giorgio Ponzio , <i>This Thing Called "Design Theory"</i>	197
Reviews	206
Albena Yaneva , <i>Ardeth #02</i>	213
Jeremy Till , <i>Ardeth #03</i>	217

A Four-pages Saga

An Attempt at Graphical Analysis of the Transformation of les Halles in the Late 20th Century, with Some Implications

Daniele Campobenedetto

Is it possible to represent exhaustively the design scales (Revel, 2006) of a thirty-years long urban transformation in just one scheme? Is it possible to consider such a thick description (Geertz, 1973) as autonomous and analytically useful?

The following scheme is an attempt to explore the answers at these questions through an overview of the Paris's les Halles saga during the Seventies and the Eighties, as a result of a three-year research

Even if the scheme may appear obscure to those who are not familiar with the les Halles saga it is meant to give an idea of the path traced by documents and material effects among different social entities, as policies, projects, conflicts and physical transformations. The arrows show the cause-effect relationship between events and mirror the continuous redefinition of strategic decisions, and the superposition of material effects. Almost every event has effects, which can shape the physical space (through building sites), the socio-technical space (through projects) and the social space (through negotiations and policies).

Exploring this path, is at least possible to highlight two elements:

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Legend

- Event/action of primary importance (referred to the process) in a casual chain
- Event/action of secondary importance (referred to the process) in a casual chain
- X Controversy generated within a formal context of Governance
- X Controversy generated informally and unpredicted
- Interruption of a process
- ↑ Direct cause and effect relationship of primary importance
- ↑ Direct cause and effect relationship of secondary importance
- Indirect cause and effect relationship
- Implication between events / actions which influences the process with no cause and effect relationship
- ~ Casual chain without details

- First proposals ...
- Event/action of the process
- Scheme for the...
- Event/action related to the Apur process

- Relationship related to the Apur
- Event/action in which Apur plays a direct role
- Event/action in which Apur plays an indirect role

- Associations and individual professionals oppose...
- Description

Abbreviations

Apur
 Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme
 CCI
 Centre de Commerce international
 CdP
 Conseil de Paris
 COPRAS
 Comité Parisien de Recherche et d'Action Sociale
 CDU
 Centre de Documentation et d'Urbanisme
 PAZ
 Plan d'Aménagement de Zone
 SDAURP
 Schéma Directeur d'aménagement d'Urbanisme de la Région de Paris
 SEAH
 Société civile d'Etudes pour l'Aménagement des Halles de Paris
 SEMAH
 Société d'Economie Mixte pour l'Aménagement des Halles
 ZAC
 Zone d'Aménagement Concerté

Material effects

Documents

Conflicts and negotiations

Policies

Architectural projects

Public space projects

General schemes

Ville de Paris

Prefecture

Ministries

Presidency

1958

1959

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964

1965

1966

1967 gen - feb

1967 mar - apr

1967 mai - ju

1967 juil - août

1967 sept - oct

1967 nov - dec

Scheme for the center of Paris CDU

Scheme Lopez-Holley for the center of Paris

First proposals from Louis Hoym de Marlen

Masterplan by Hoym de Marlen

Project Marot et Tremblot
 Project Hoym de Marlen
 Project Charpentier
 Project AUA
 Project Jean Faugeron
 Project Louis Arretche (consultant Apur)

Presentation of spontaneous projects

Associations and individual professionals oppose to the projects presented during the competition held in 1967.

(1948) Preliminary studies for the transformation of central Paris

The prefecture entrusts more studies to the CDU

Approval and creation of an agency of studies for the development of the Halles (SEAH)

the SEAH opposes to the Lopez and Holley's scheme and promotes other studies for les Halles.

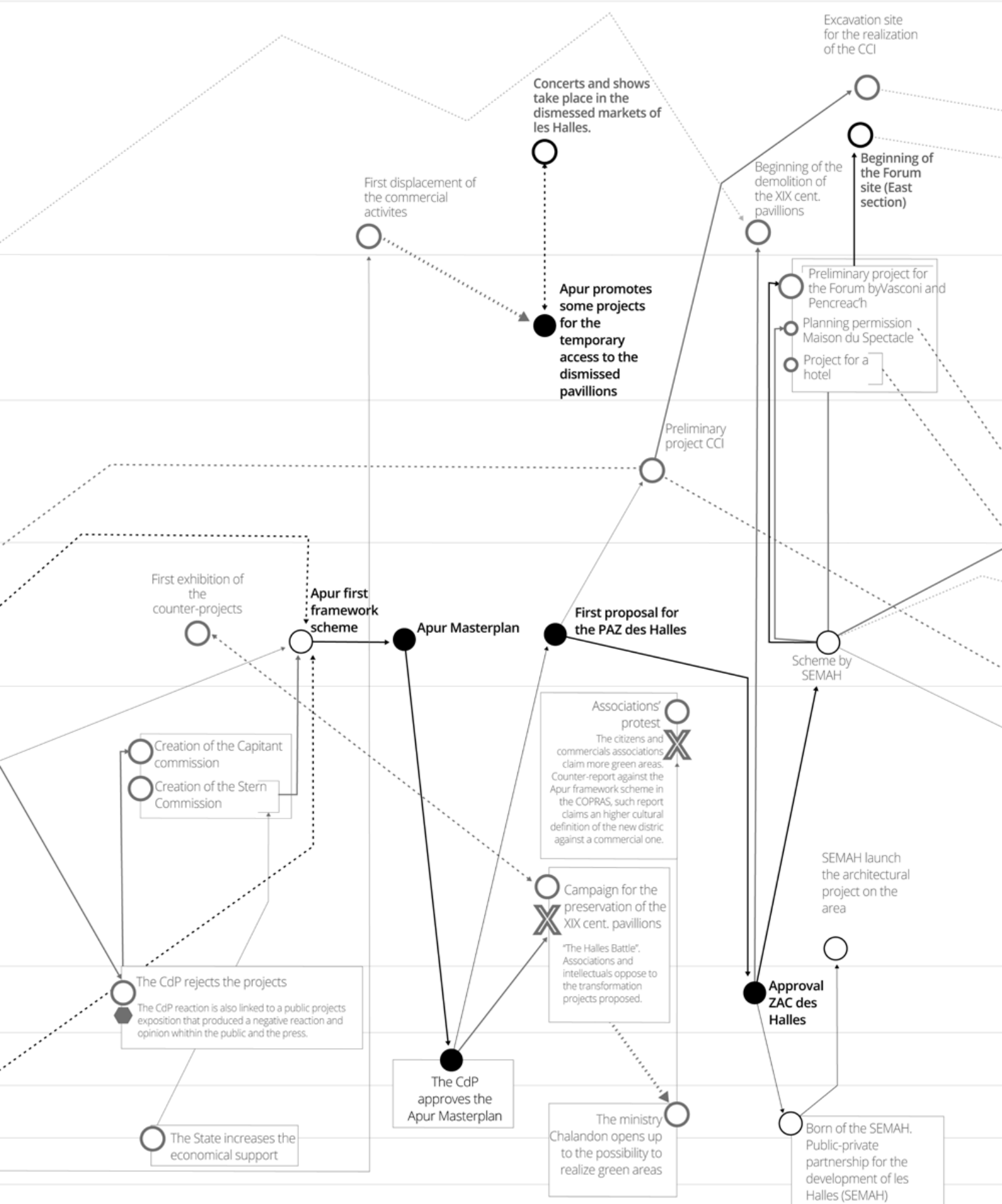
Approval SDAURP

Launch of the first competition

Born of the Apur

Approval loi d'orientation foncière

Decree 13/71 1962 declares the dislocation of the general markets out of Paris



1968 gen - feb

1968 mar - apr

1968 mag - ju

1968 lug - ago

1968 sett - ott

1968 nov - dec

1969 gen - feb

1969 mar - apr

1969 mag - ju

1969 lug - ago

1969 sett - ott

1969 nov - dec

1970 gen - feb

1970 mar - apr

1970 mag - ju

1970 lug - ago

1970 sett - ott

1970 nov - dec

1971

1972

1973

1974 gen

1974 feb

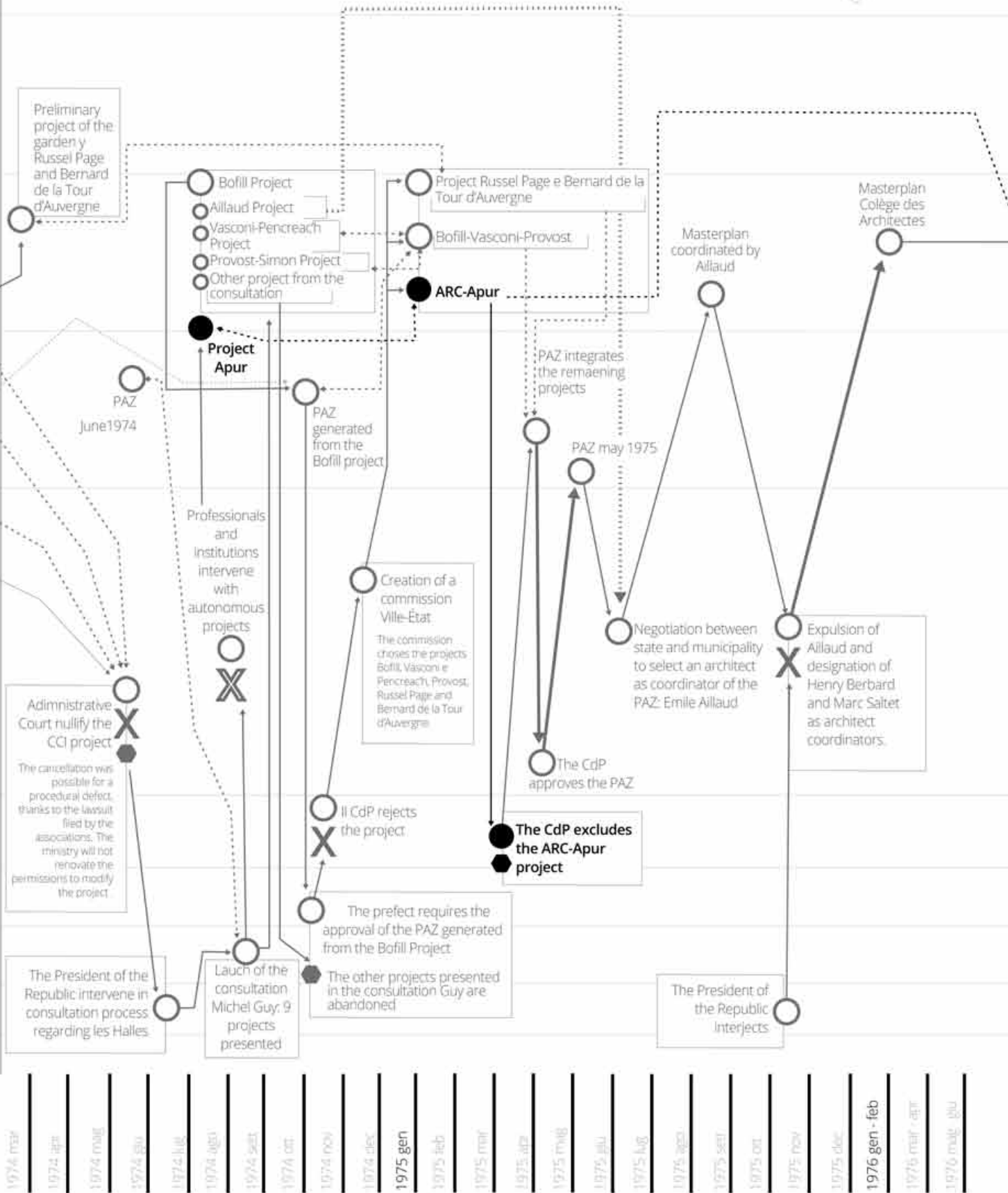
Material effects

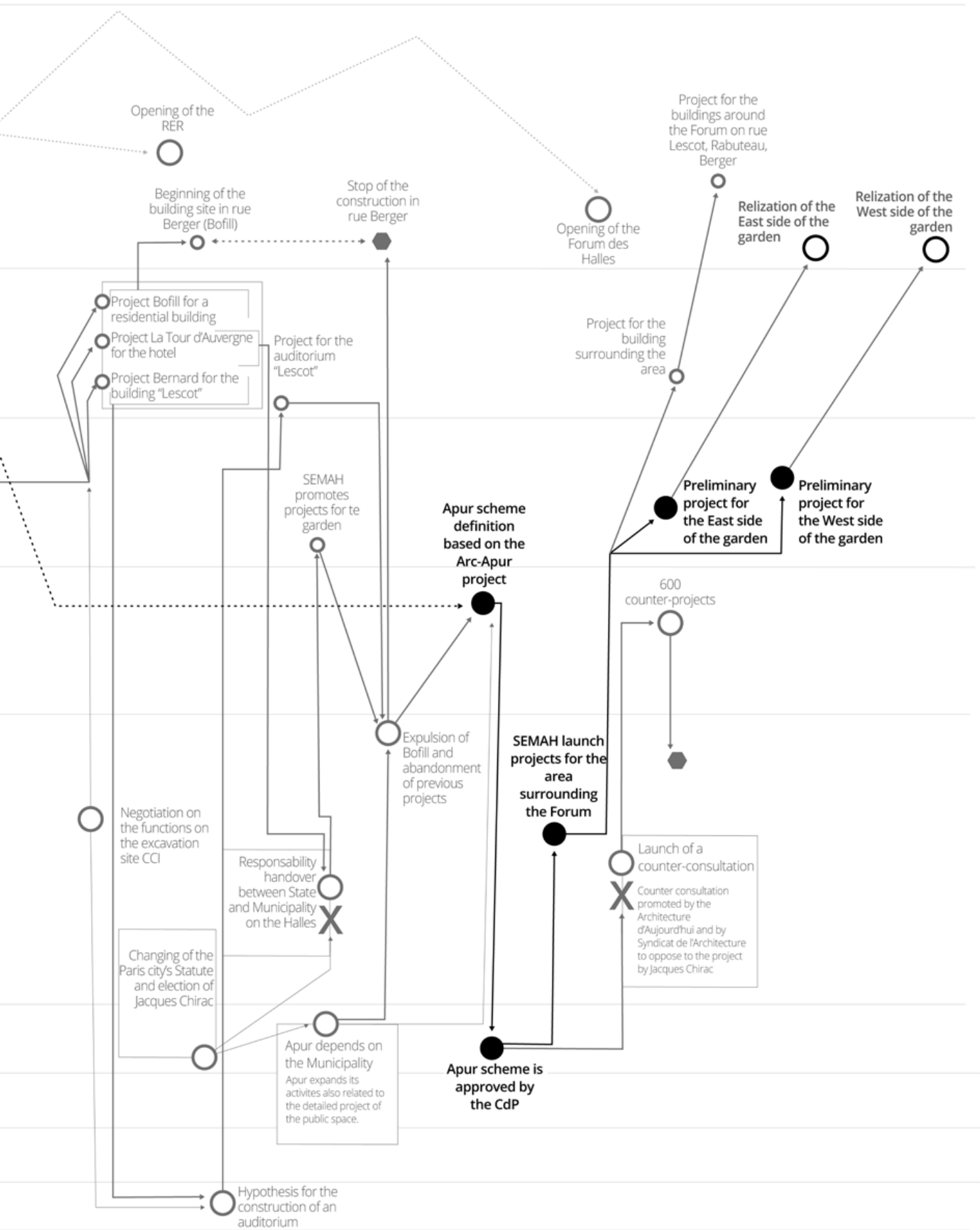
Documents

Conflicts and negotiations

Policies

The Forum project is modified according to the variations of the proposals for the building in rue Lescot





1976 lug - ago
1976 sett - ott
1976 nov - dec
1977
1978 gen - feb
1978 mar - apr
1978 mag - giu
1978 lug - ago
1978 sett - ott
1978 nov - dec
1979 gen - feb
1979 mar - apr
1979 mag - giu
1979 lug - ago
1979 sett - ott
1979 nov - dec
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989

One is that les Halles saga is an over-stratified process, in which different urban paradigms overlap and superpose themselves going up and down between policies and material effects.

Another is the role of intermediate entities, as public bureaucracies (Myses 1944) – namely The Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme (APUR) – which appears to be the translator of policies in plans and projects, through conflicts and negotiations.

The question if such a tool can be used not just to build up a rough “urban history” (Roncayolo 1976), but rather to picture an ongoing project, remains an open issue: the same energy which is more conventionally spent to communicate a design could, perhaps, be redeployed to design a process.

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Graphics

Tapiro Design – Venezia

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